



PRESERVING DINÉTAH: WATER SECURITY FOR GENERATIONS

Navajo Nation Public Outreach at Colleges and Universities



WATER IS LIFE TÓ ÉÍ IINÁ ÁTÉ

- Dine creation stories talk about Tóyiiisdzáán – Sacred Water Woman – controls all water on earth and sky. Our stories include Male and female Rivers. Water is sacred.
- Our sacred mountains like San Francisco Peaks and Mt. Hesperus are female mountains and it is believed that Mt. Hesperus gave birth to our four sacred rivers – one of them is the powerful Colorado River.
- Since Navajo creation, water has served as a fundamental element to Navajo life. Tó éí iiná at'é (water is life), and it is elemental to Hózhó, the Navajo Way of Life.
- We pray to these sacred waters. We use our tadidíín and make offerings. We pray to Diyin Dine'é to bring us rain and fill our rivers so our crops, animals, land, and people can grow and thrive.
- We need water to survive, clean and bathe, feed our animals, grow our crops – we need water to live a sustainable life – like our ancestors did.



SEVERE WATER ACCESS GAP

- The nonprofit Navajo Water Project says the Diné are 67 times more likely to be without running water or a toilet connected to sewer lines than others in the United States.
- EPA reports 18% of homes lack access, but the Nation reports 30 to 40 percent of homes lack access to running water.
- Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund's data shows that 50-70% of families in some communities lack access to indoor plumbing



WATER HAULING DATA

- 68% of water haulers surveyed have been hauling water for more than 10 years.
- Over half traveled 5-10 miles to haul water, often on rough and poorly maintained dirt roads, and in aged and worn vehicles.
- Another 10 percent traveled more than 30 miles to access water.
- More than half of these people hauled water 2-3 times a week.
- More than half haul water for another household other than their own.

Source: Recent preliminary Navajo water haulers research study results conducted by Dr. Karletta Chief from the University of Arizona



THE COST OF HAULED WATER

- The cost of water in Arizona for 100 gallons is \$0.20 - \$0.40.
- In 2011, the estimated Navajo water hauling cost was \$13.30 for 100 gallons (Source: Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources Water Development Strategy Report).
- Time magazine recently reported that it costs Navajo water haulers 71 times as much as the average American.
- More than a third of our Navajo people living on the Nation are 50 years or older, and many are on a fixed income.



WATER COSTS DURING COVID

- 95% of participants of the Navajo COVID-19 and Increasing Indigenous Resilience Preliminary Water Survey reported that handwashing during the pandemic increased their water usage.



VULNERABILITY TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES

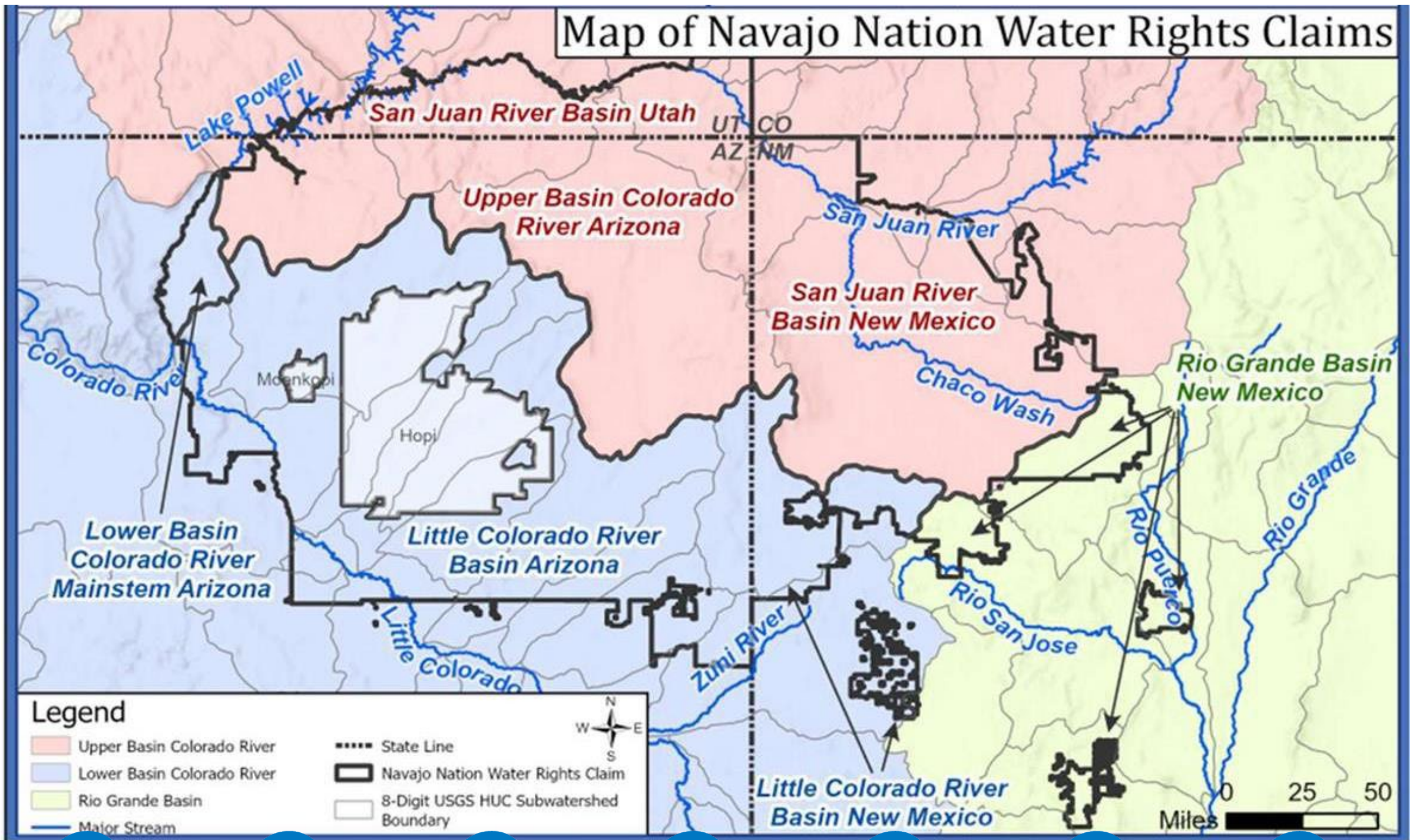
- The recent Navajo Nation Health Survey identified that ***the key factor that leads to poor health at Navajo Nation is the lack of running water in a home.***
- “The IHS estimates ***each dollar invested in water and sewer infrastructure could yield savings of \$1.18*** in avoided direct health care costs for these diseases.” - 2023 IHS Press Release

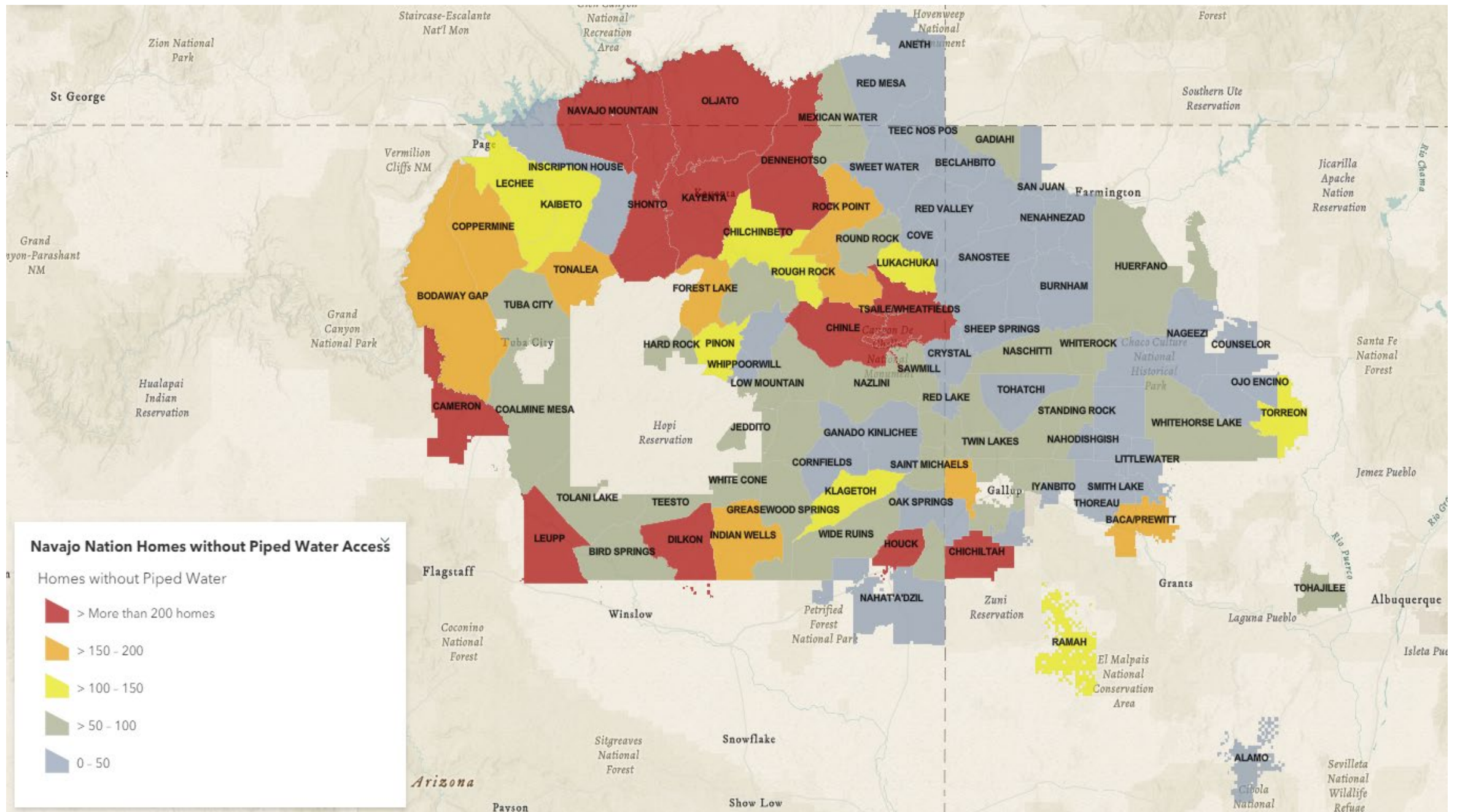






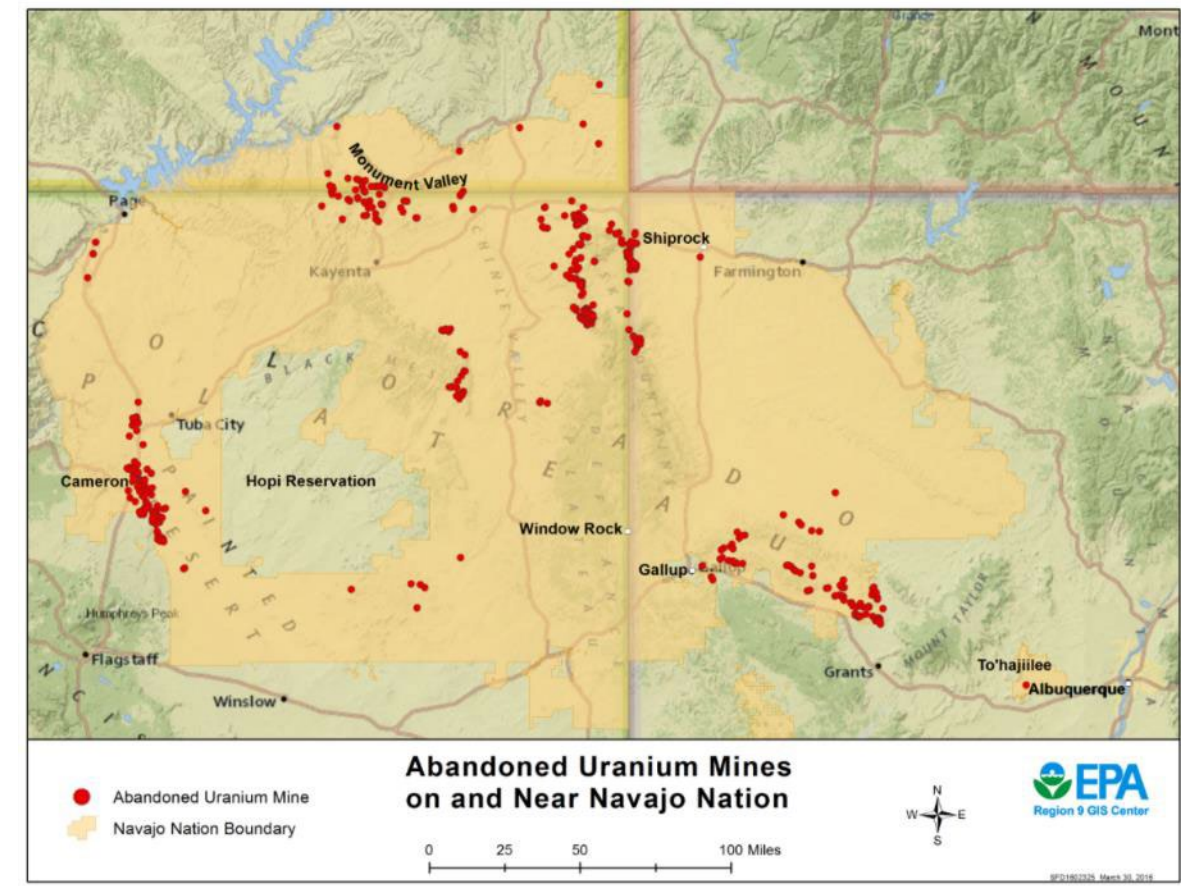
Map of Navajo Nation Water Rights Claims



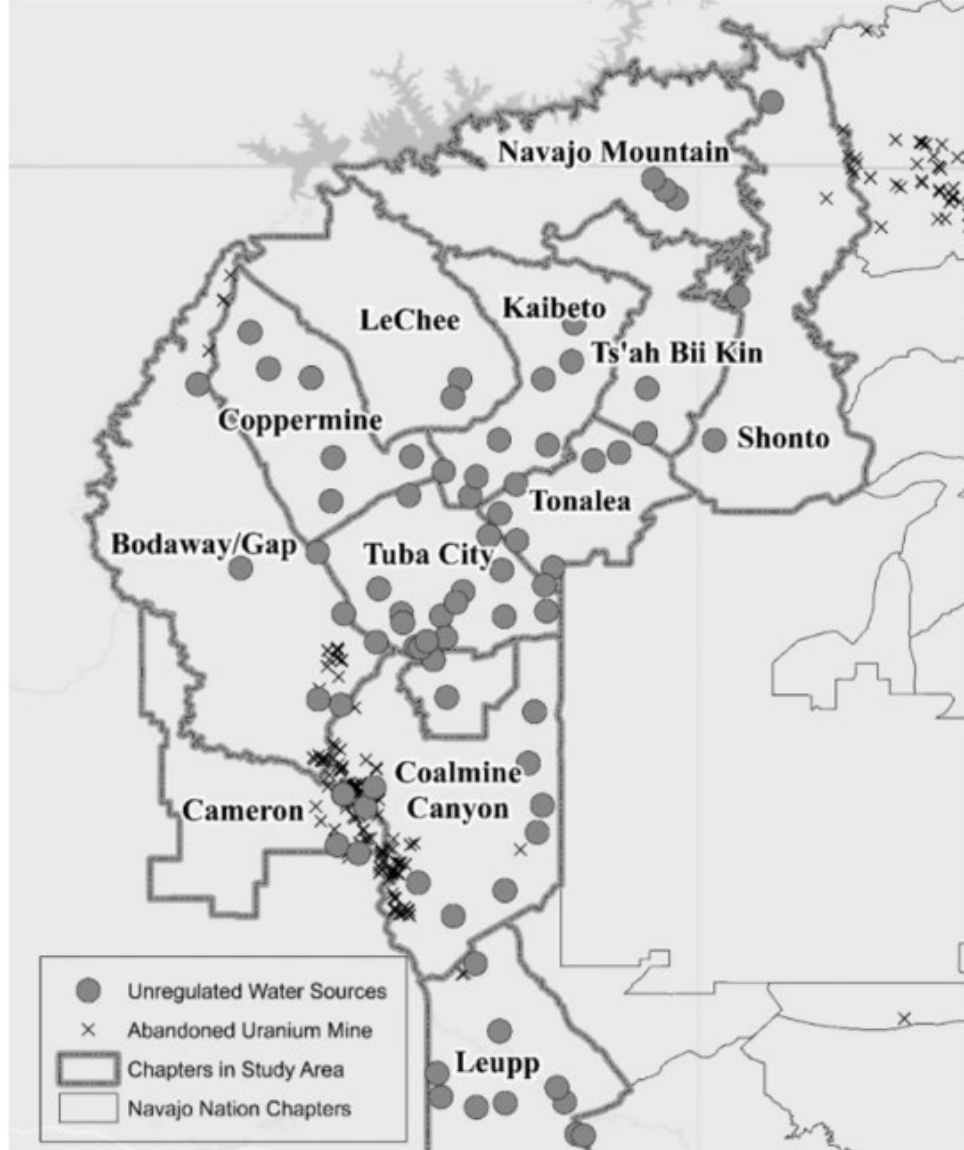


URANIUM MINES

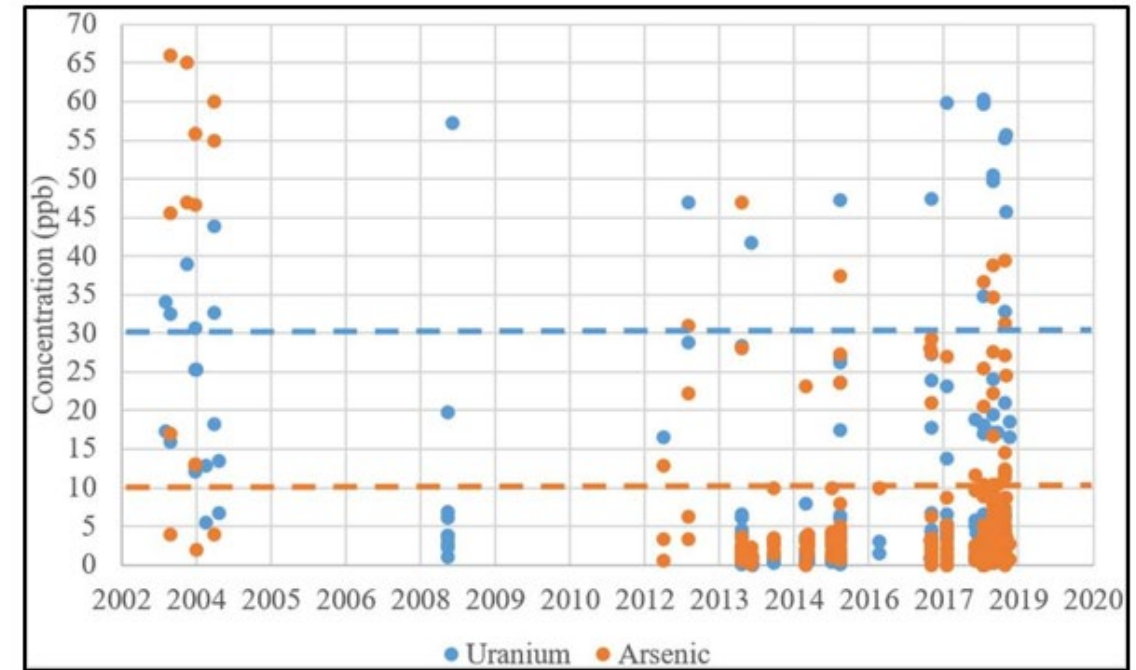
- Nearly **30 million tons** of uranium ore were extracted from Navajo lands between 1944 and 1986
- EPA has mapped 521 abandoned uranium mine sites within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation
- Navajo Nation banned uranium mining in 2005
- “Health effects from uranium exposure in water have led to kidney disease and cancers in Navajo residents.” -- Department of Interior Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance statement



URANIUM AND ARSENIC UNREGULATED WATER ISSUES



Ingram et al. 2020, *J Vac Sci Technol A*.



Ingram et al. 2020, *J Vac Sci Technol A*.

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for uranium in drinking water set by the US EPA is 30 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) for uranium and 10 micrograms per liter for arsenic.

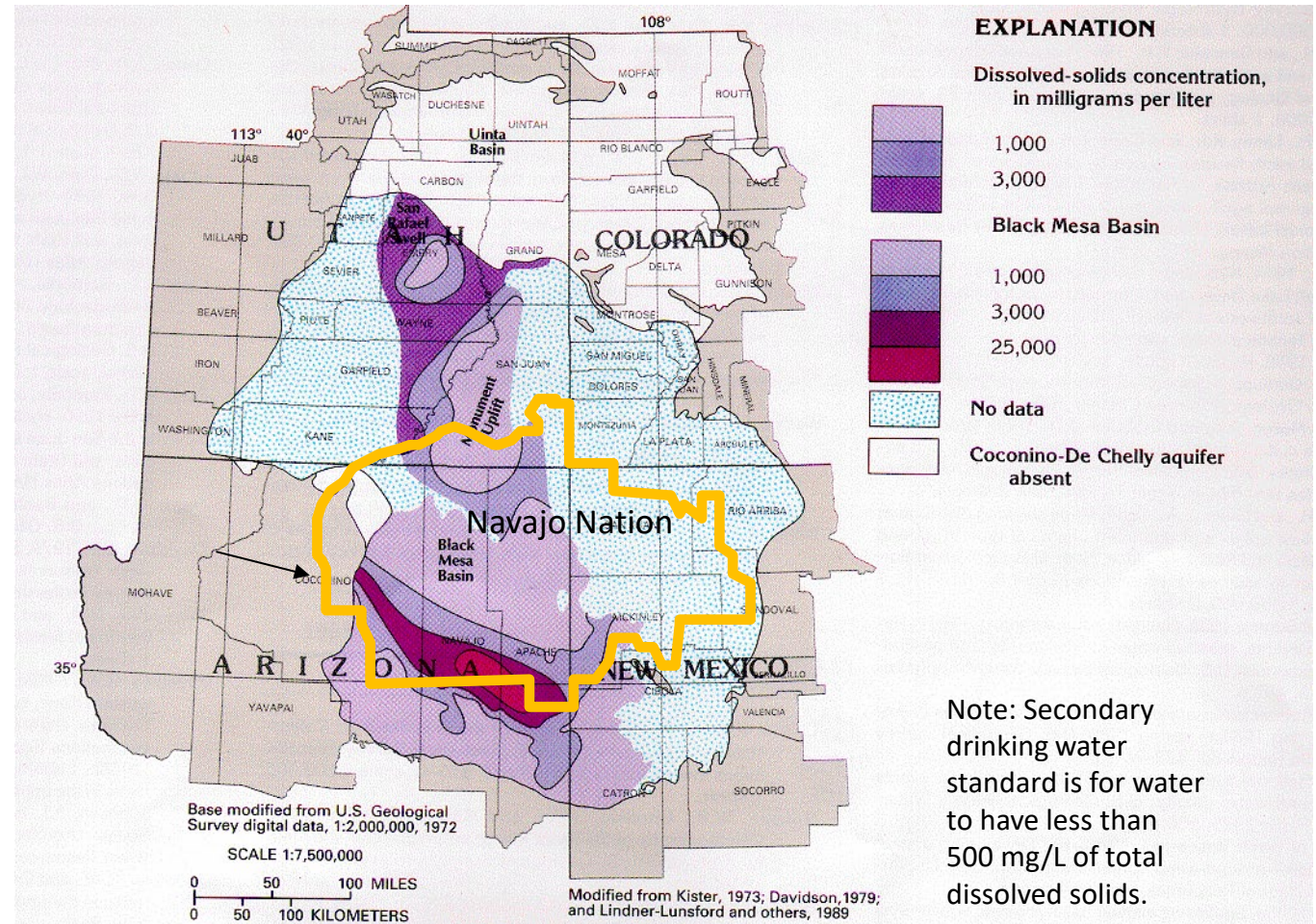
THE LINK BETWEEN URANIUM & CANCER

- “Cancer is one of the leading causes of death among the Navajo people.”
--Navajo Epidemiology Center’s Navajo Nation Mortality Report, 2015-2017
- “Historical factors, such as the detrimental effects of uranium exposure in combination with social determinants of health (e.g., access to clean water, food insecurity, access to healthcare services) are major contributors to cancer in the Navajo people.”
--Navajo Epidemiology Center, Navajo Cancer Report

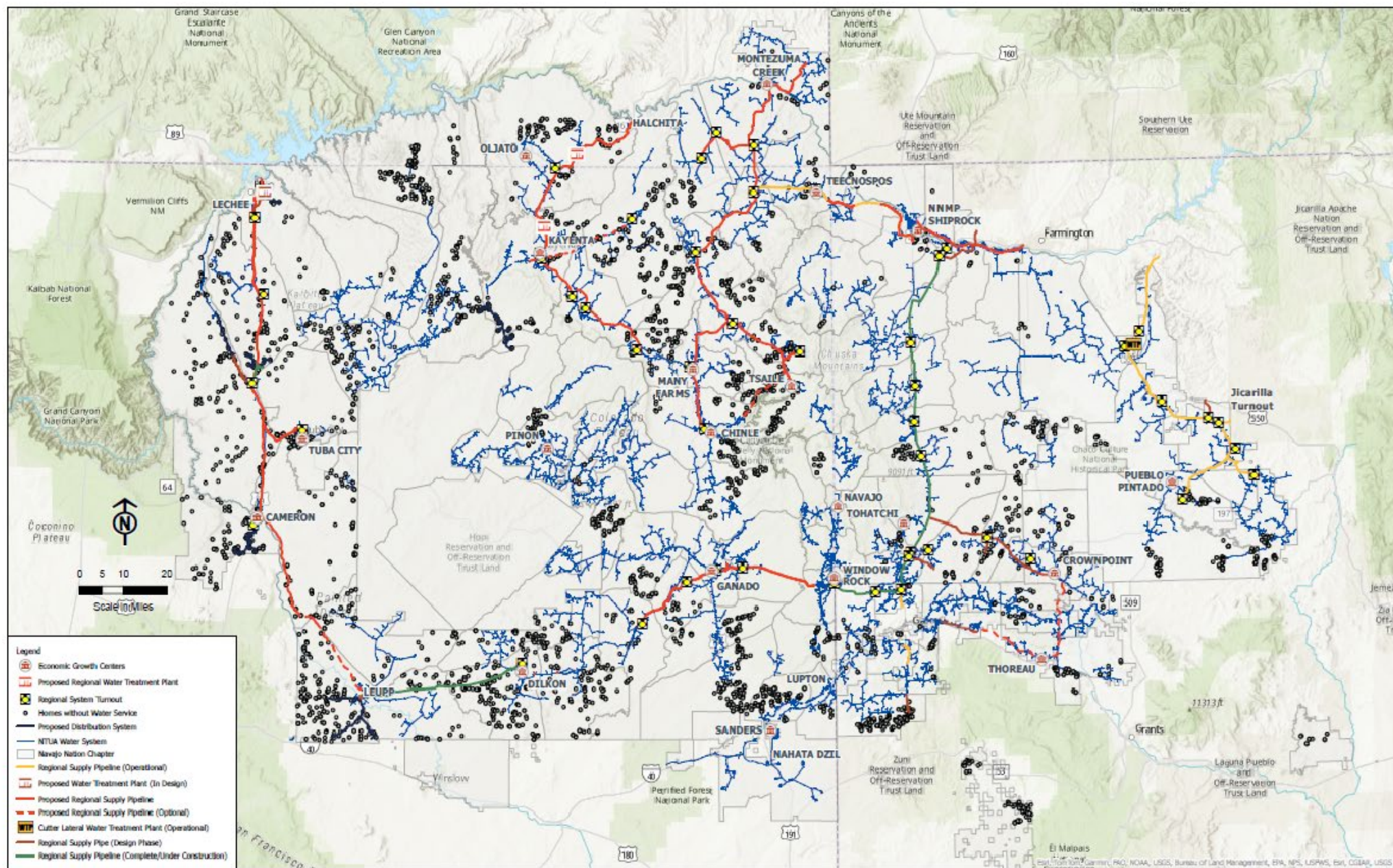


BRACKISH WATER

- In the Black Mesa Basin, the total dissolved solids concentration is greater than 25,000 milligrams per liter according to a USGS map of the region.
- The secondary drinking water standard is for water to have less than 500 milligrams per liter of total dissolved solids.



USGS



Last update: March 4, 2024

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Global Water Map

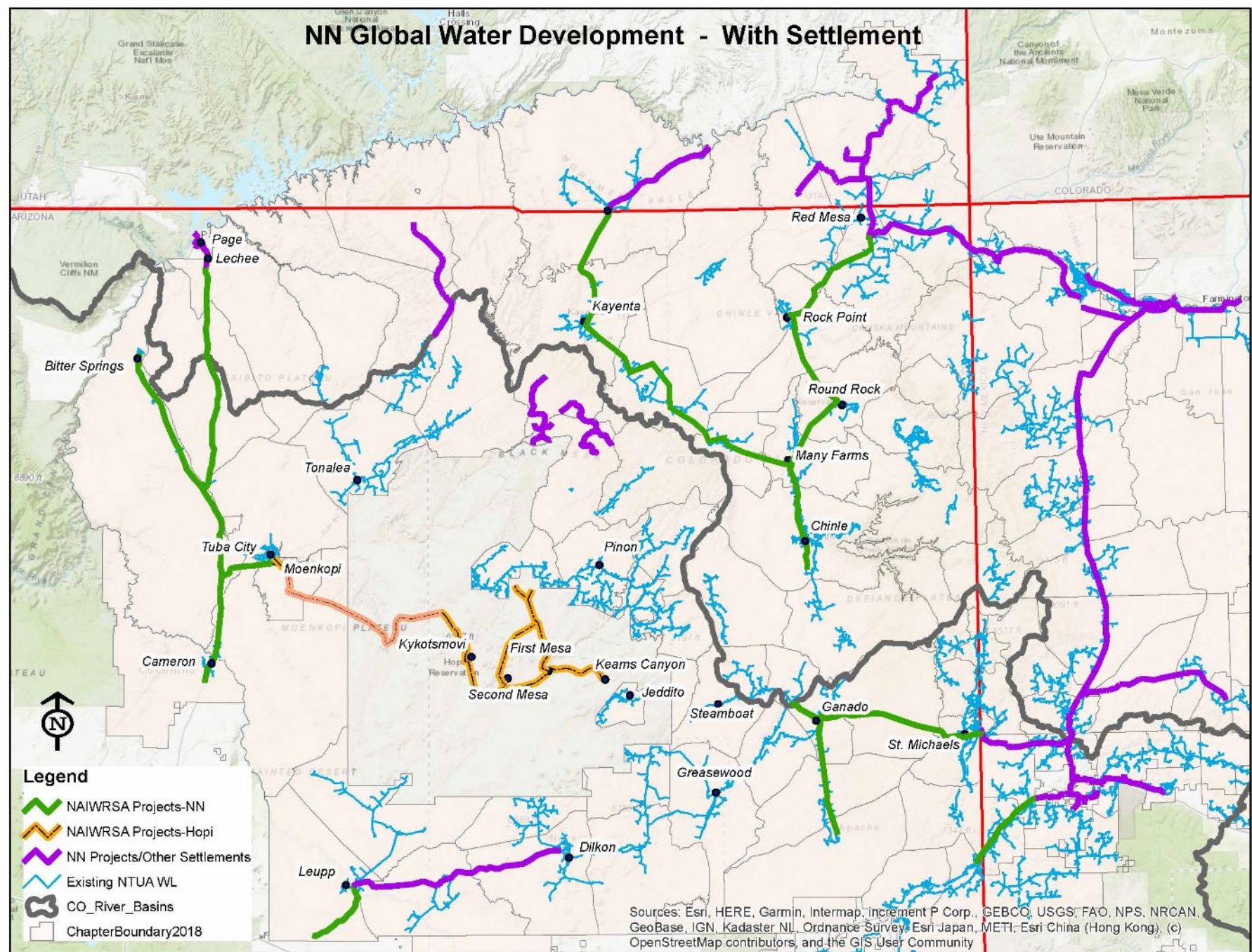
Homes without Water Services on the Navajo Nation

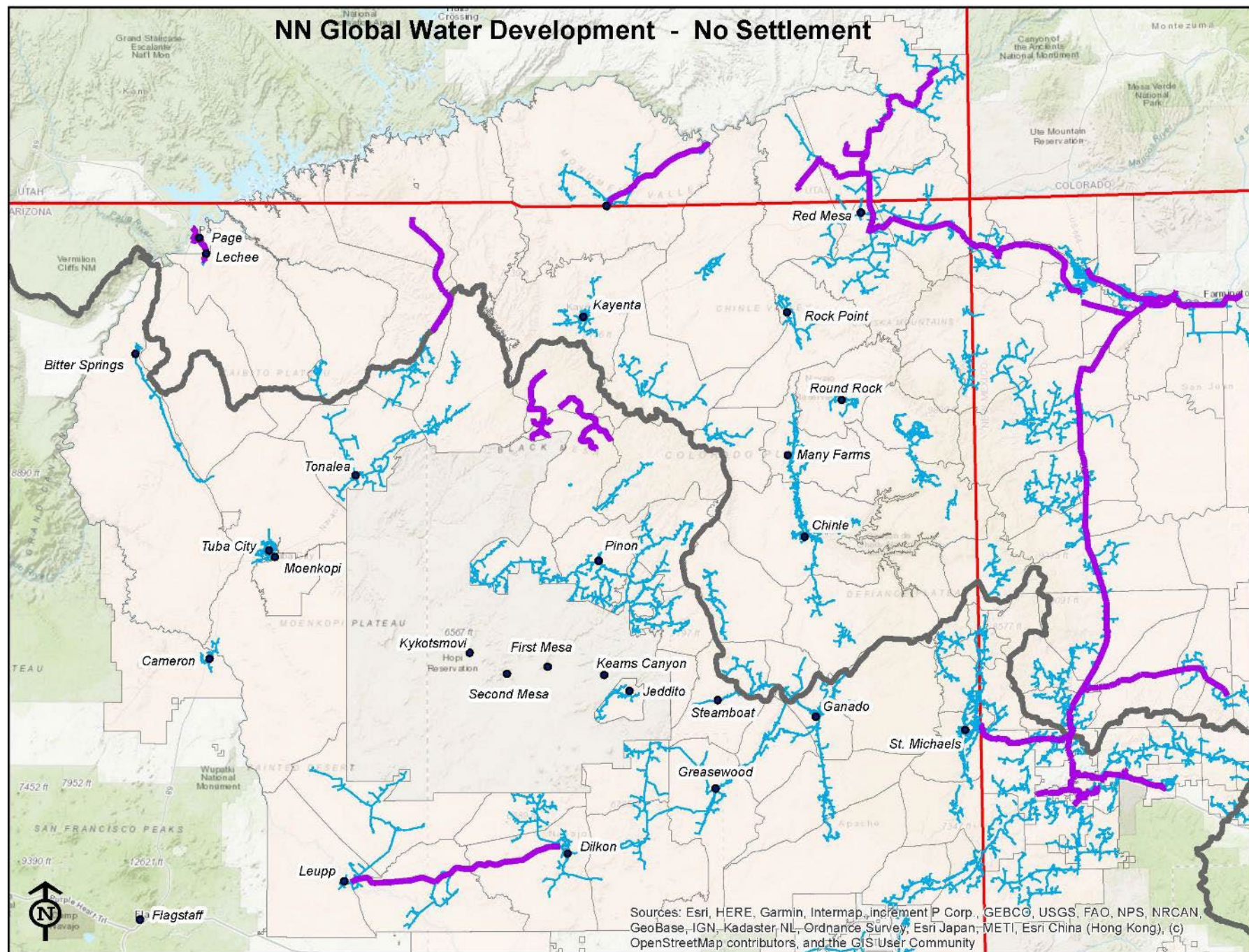


NORTHEASTERN ARIZONA INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2024

S. 4633, H.R. 8940







SETTLEMENT WILL AFFIRM & SECURE ENFORCEABLE RIGHTS

- 44,700 AFY of the Arizona allocation of Upper Basin Colorado River Water (89.4% of Arizona's Upper Basin allocation)
- 3,600 AFY of Fourth Priority Lower Basin Colorado River Water
- All the LCR water that reaches the Navajo Reservation (historic flows are estimated to be 122,000 AFY)
- All the wash water that reaches the Navajo Reservation (subject to an intertribal management agreement with Hopi Tribe with re to water upstream of Hopi)



SETTLEMENT WILL AFFIRM & SECURE ENFORCEABLE RIGHTS

- All the Navajo Aquifer that underlies the Navajo Reservation with a limit on pumping up to 8,400 AFY (subject to an intertribal management agreement with Hopi Tribe)
- All the Coconino Aquifer that underlies the Navajo Reservation



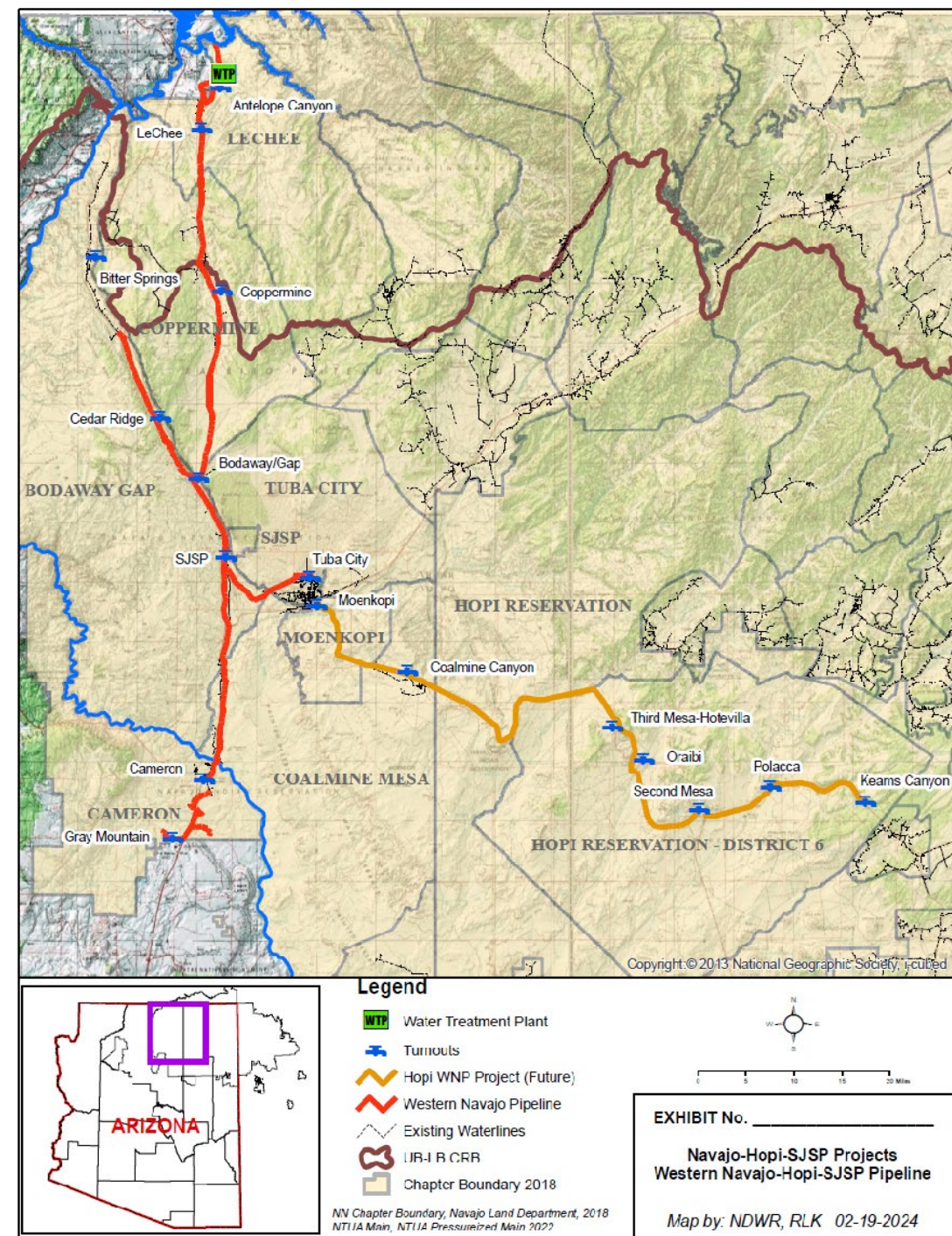
SETTLEMENT WILL SECURE \$5 BILLION

- To build substantial water delivery infrastructure, mostly on the Navajo Nation. Including the following projects: iiná bá – paa tuwaqat'si pipeline, Southwest Navajo Regional Project, Ganado Area Project, Code Talker Lateral, Black Mesa Project, Four-Corners Project, Kayenta Area Project, Lupton Area Project, Local Groundwater Projects.
- To fund renewable energy projects to power the delivery of water; a Navajo Nation Agricultural Conservation Fund; Navajo Nation Operation, Maintenance & Replacement Fund; and a Navajo Nation Lower Basin Colorado River Water Acquisition Fund.



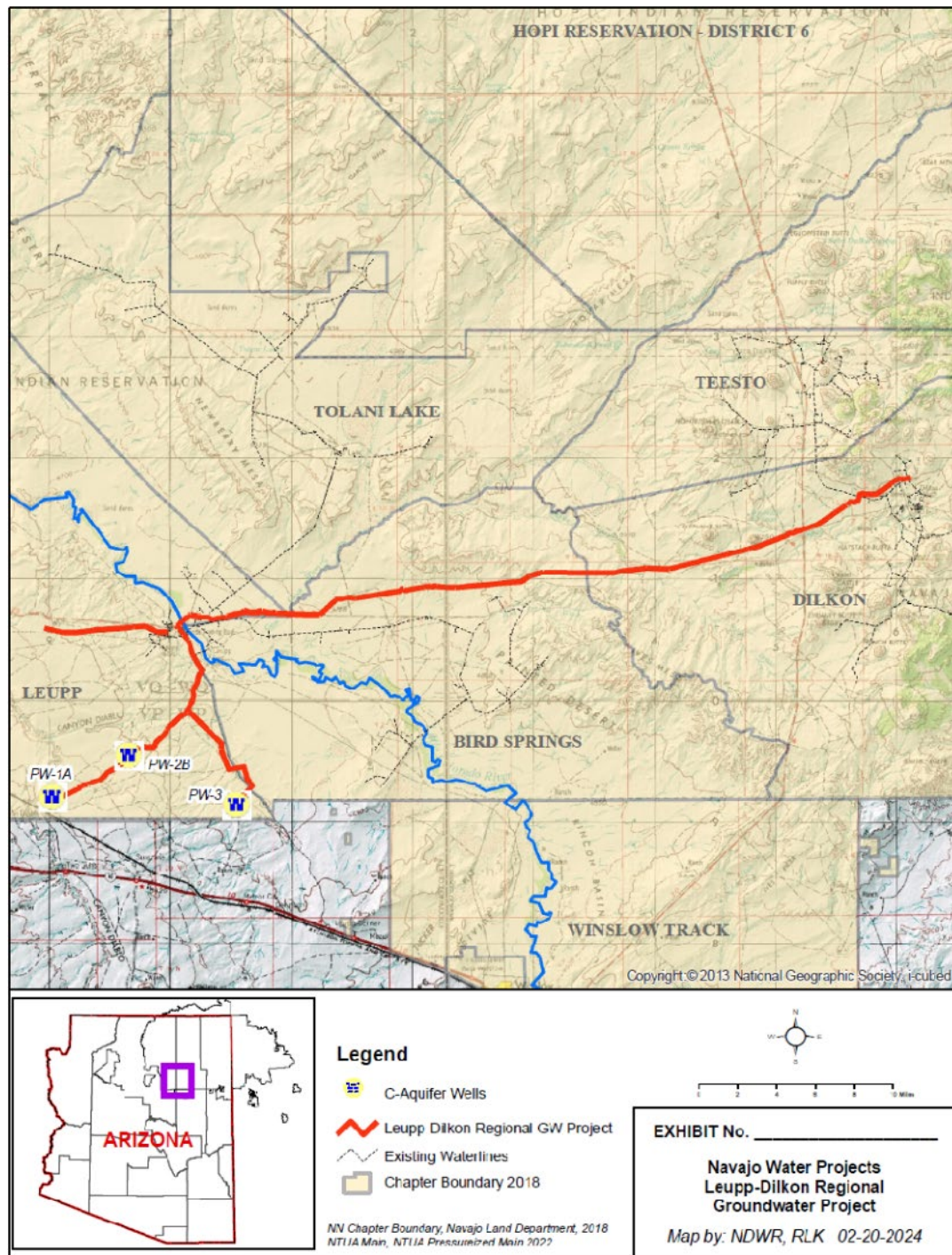
IINÁ BÁ – PAA TUWAQAT'SI PIPELINE

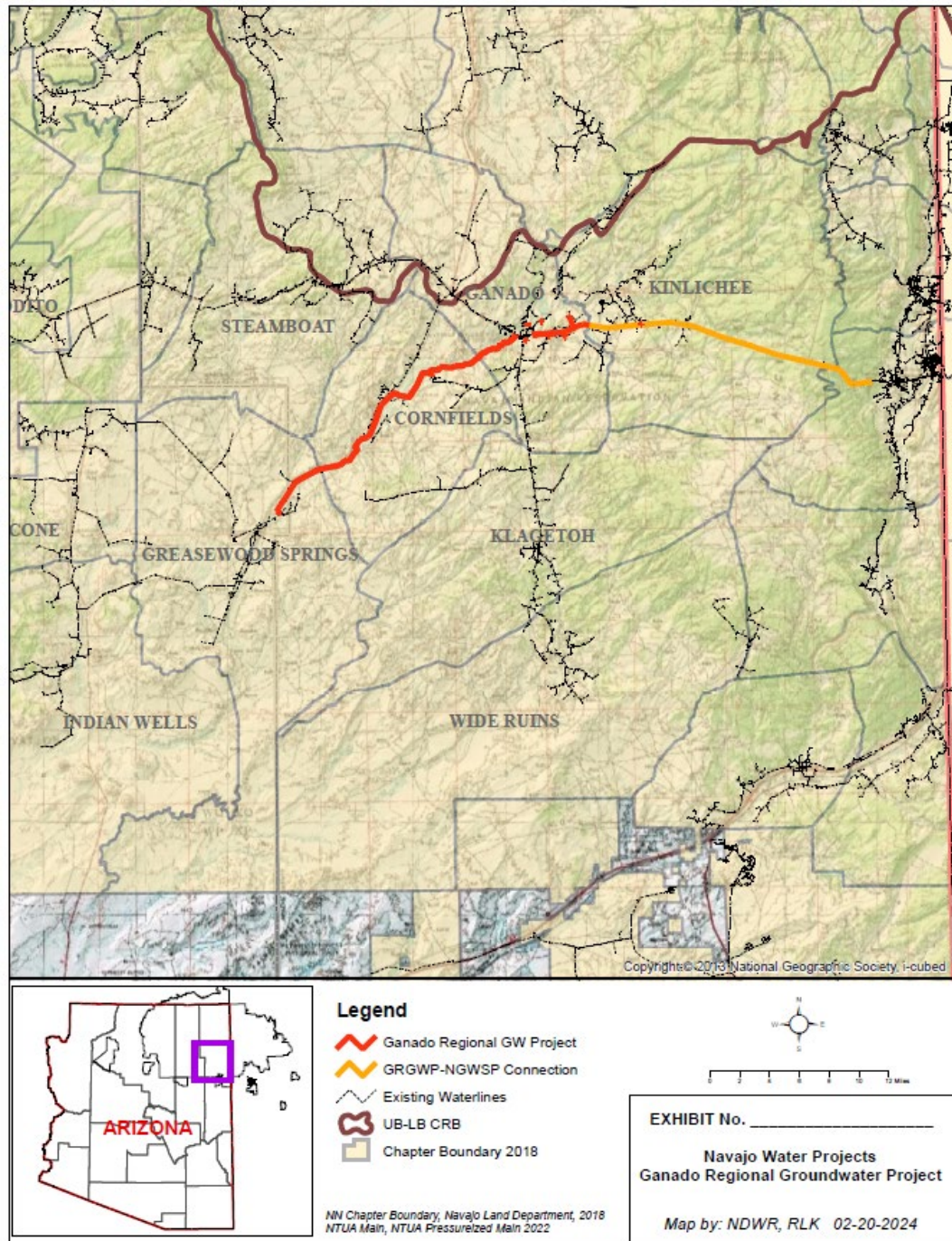
divert water from
Lake Powell,
benefiting
Coppermine,
Kaibeto, LeChee,
Bodaway/Gap,
Cameron, and Tuba
City and Hopi
villages



SOUTHWEST NAVAJO REGIONAL GROUNDWATER PROJECT

- Will extend the Leupp-Dilkon Project to the benefit of Leupp, Bird Springs, Tolani Lake, Dilkon, Teesto, Indian Wells, White Cone, and Greasewood



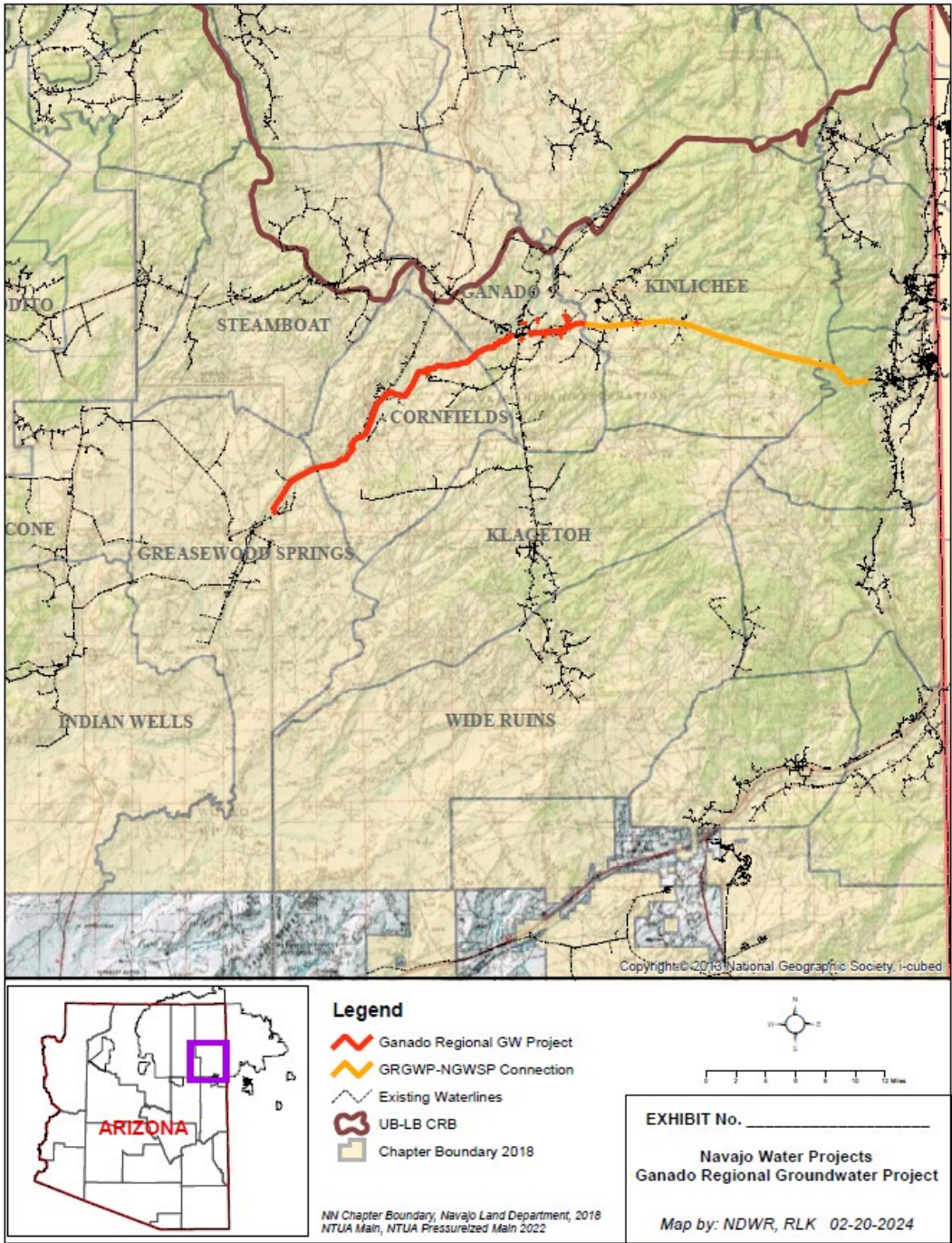


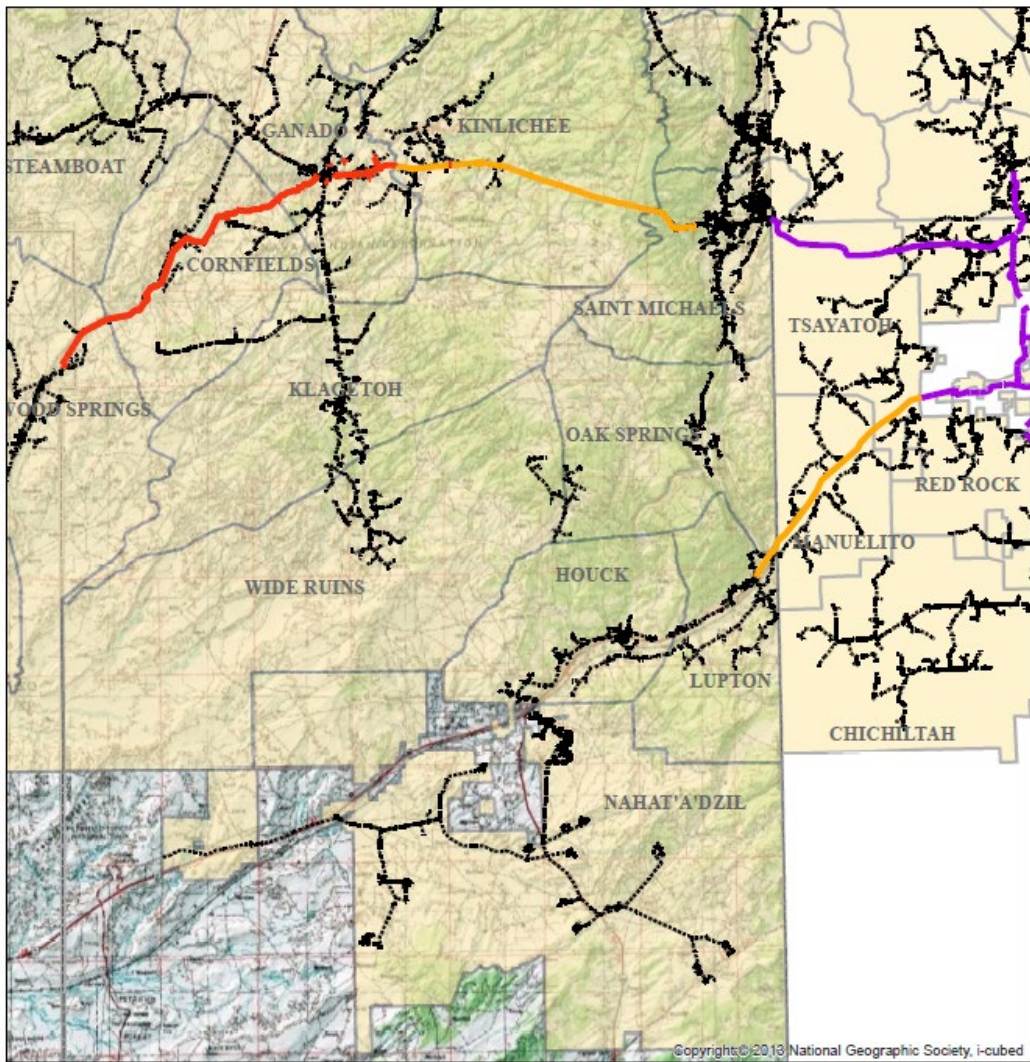
CODE TALKER LATERAL

Will extend the Code Talker Lateral waterline and expand public water systems and deliver Groundwater and Colorado River Water to Fort Defiance, Red Lake, and Saint Michaels, with an intertie to the Ganado Area Project.

GANADO REGIONAL GROUNDWATER PROJECT

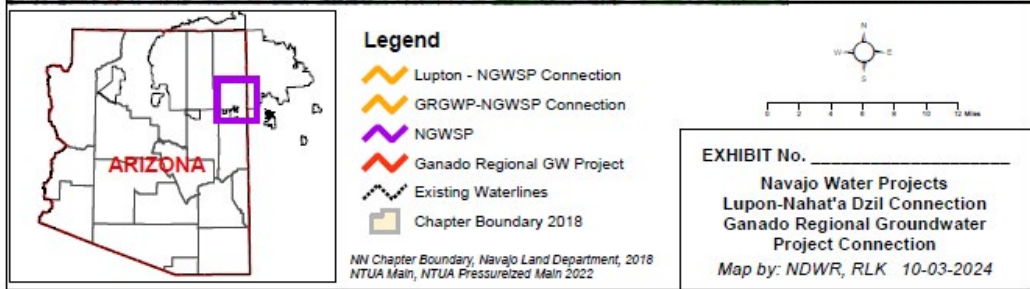
Will develop and expand public water systems to deliver C-Aquifer and Colorado River Water to Kinlichee, Ganado, Cornfields, Lower Greasewood, Jeddito, and Steamboat.





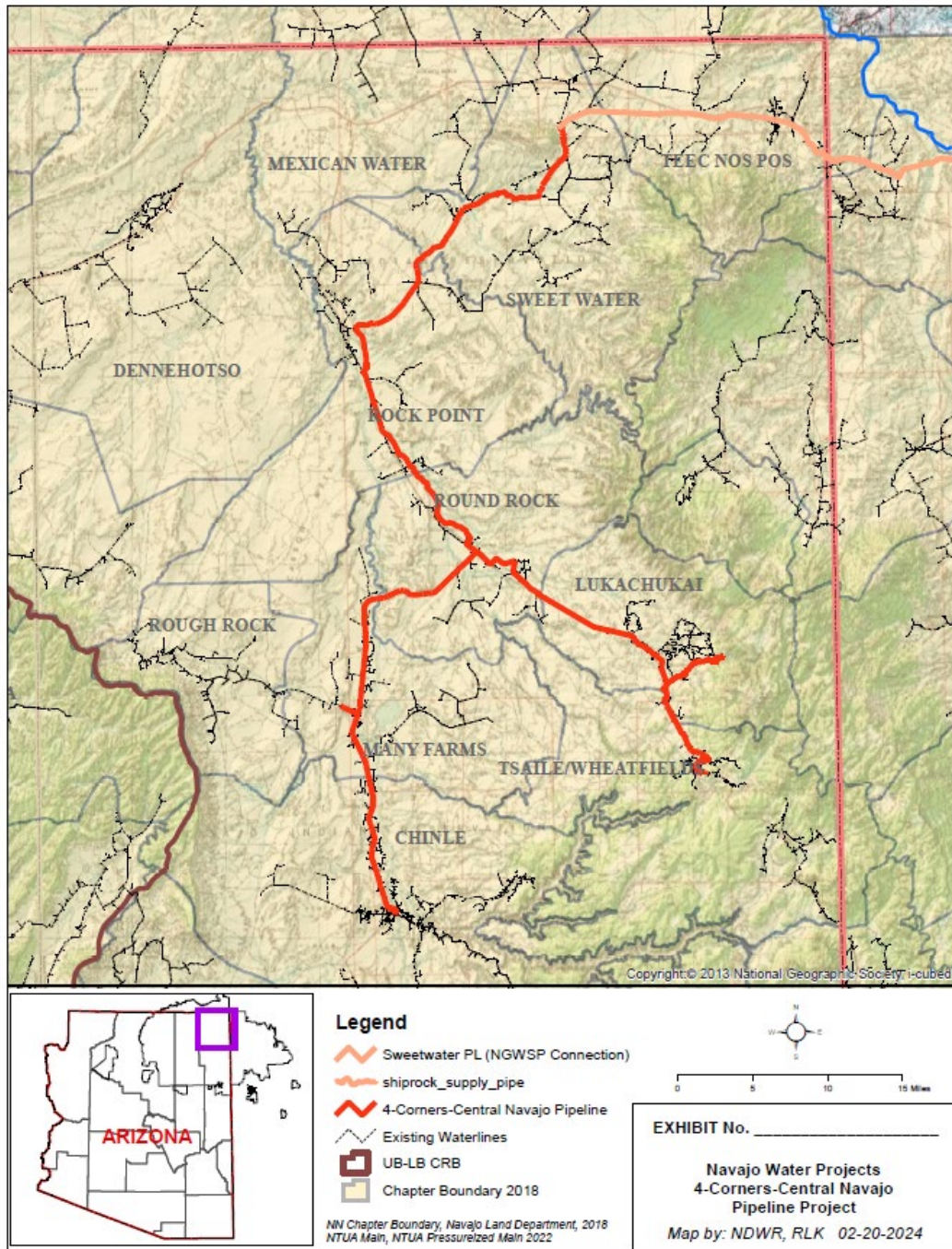
LUPTON AREA PROJECT

Will develop and expand public water systems to deliver Alluvial Aquifer and Colorado River Water to Houck, Lupton and Nahata'Dziil.



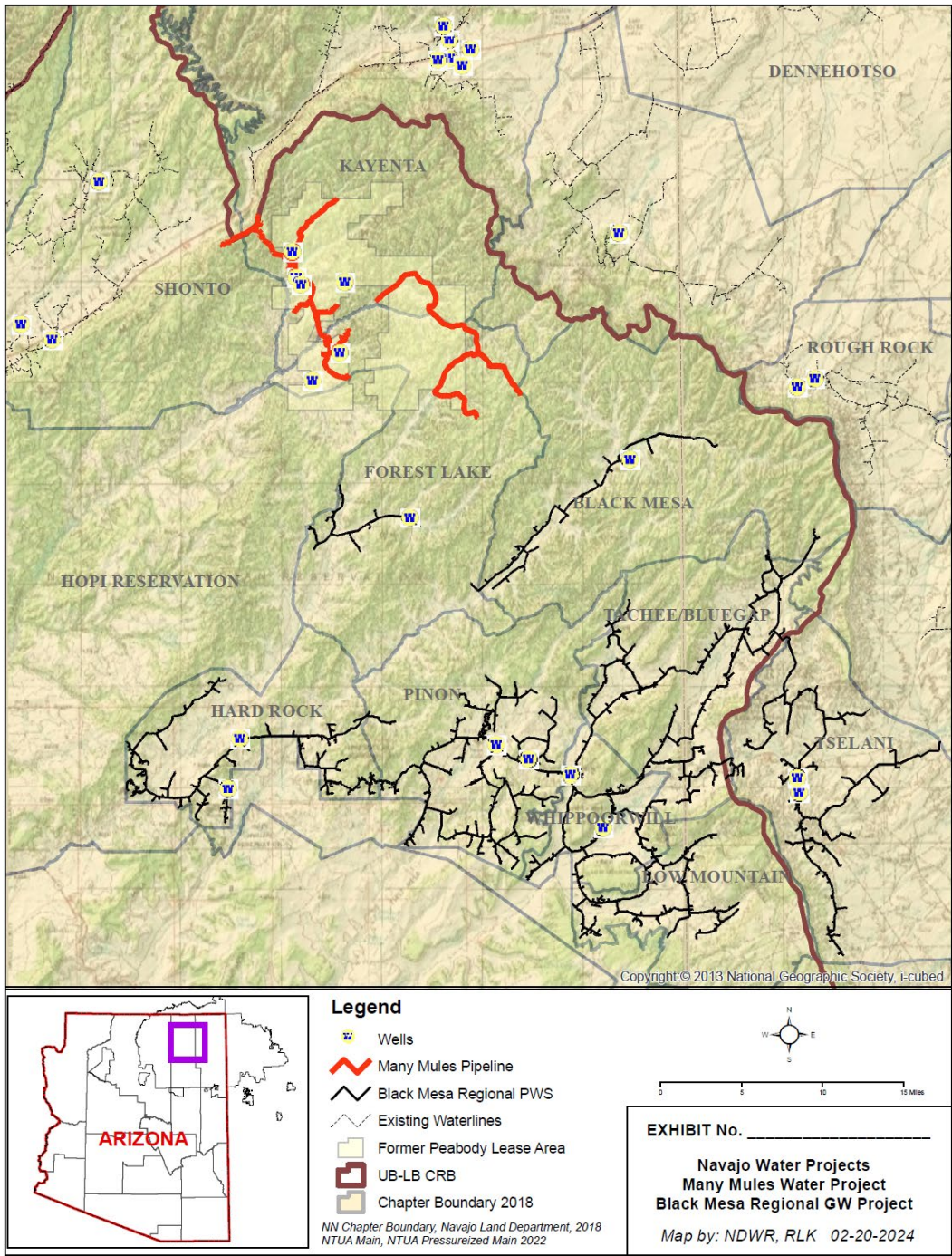
FOUR CORNERS PROJECT

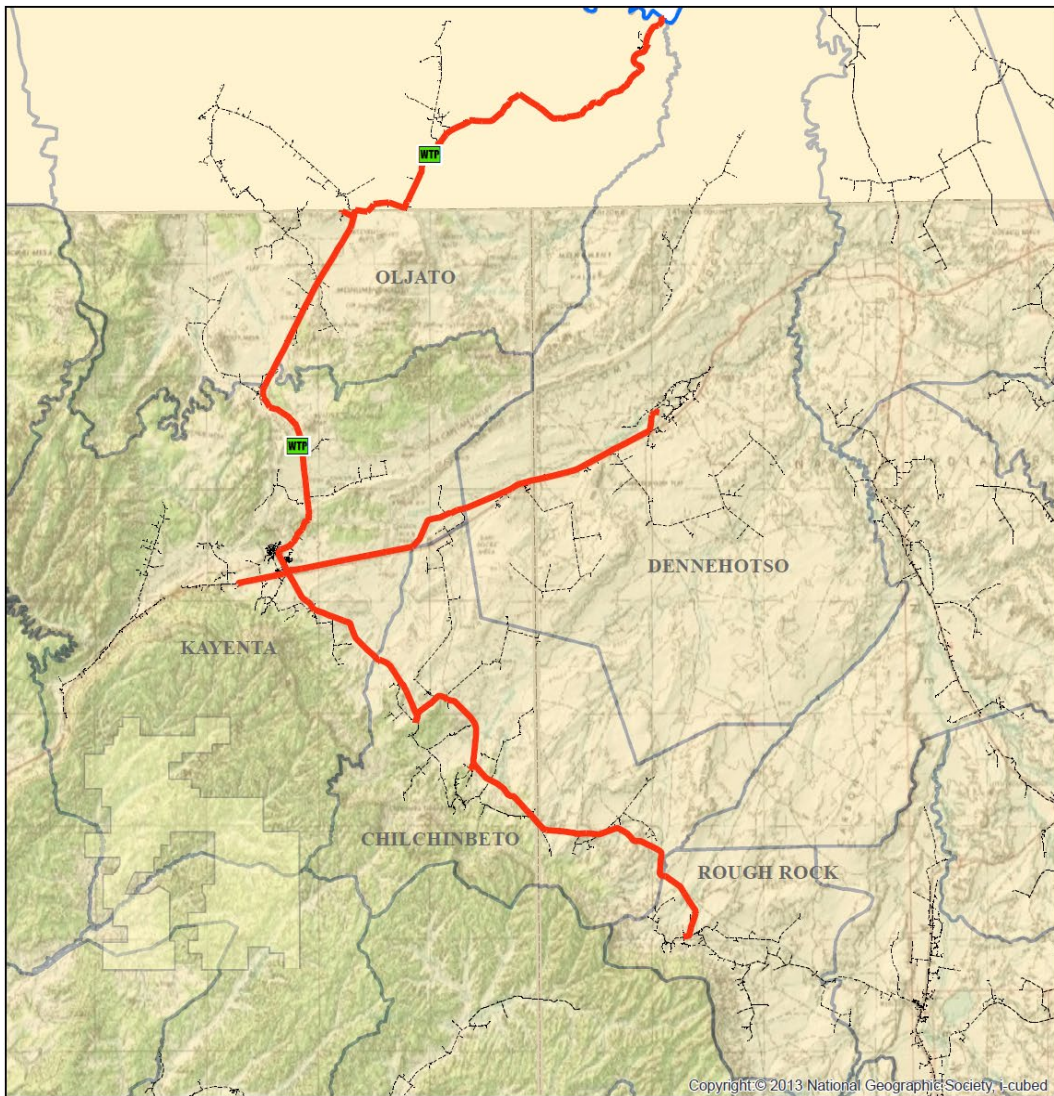
Will develop and expand public water systems to deliver Upper Basin Colorado River Water to Chinle, Many Farms, Rock Point, Rough Rock, Round Rock, Sweetwater, Teec Nos Pos, and Tsaile/Wheatfields/Blackrock



BLACK MESA REGIONAL GROUNDWATER PROJECTS

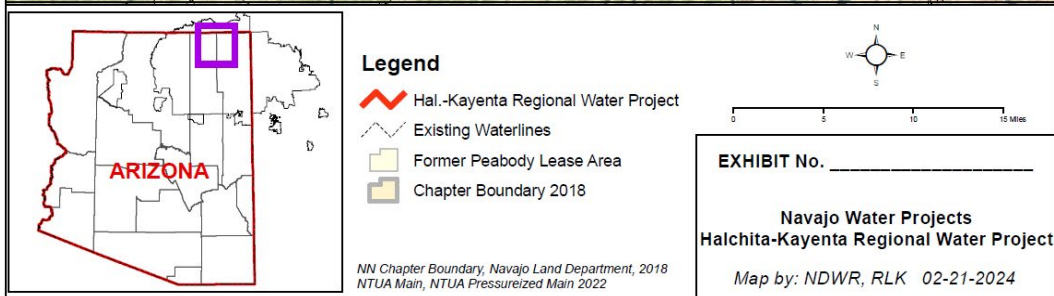
Will develop and expand the public water systems to the benefit of Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hard Rock, Low Mountain, Pinon, Blue Gap/Tachee, and Whippoorwill





KAYENTA AREA PROJECT

Will develop and expand public water systems to the benefit of Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, and Kayenta



APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE NORTHEASTERN ARIZONA INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT



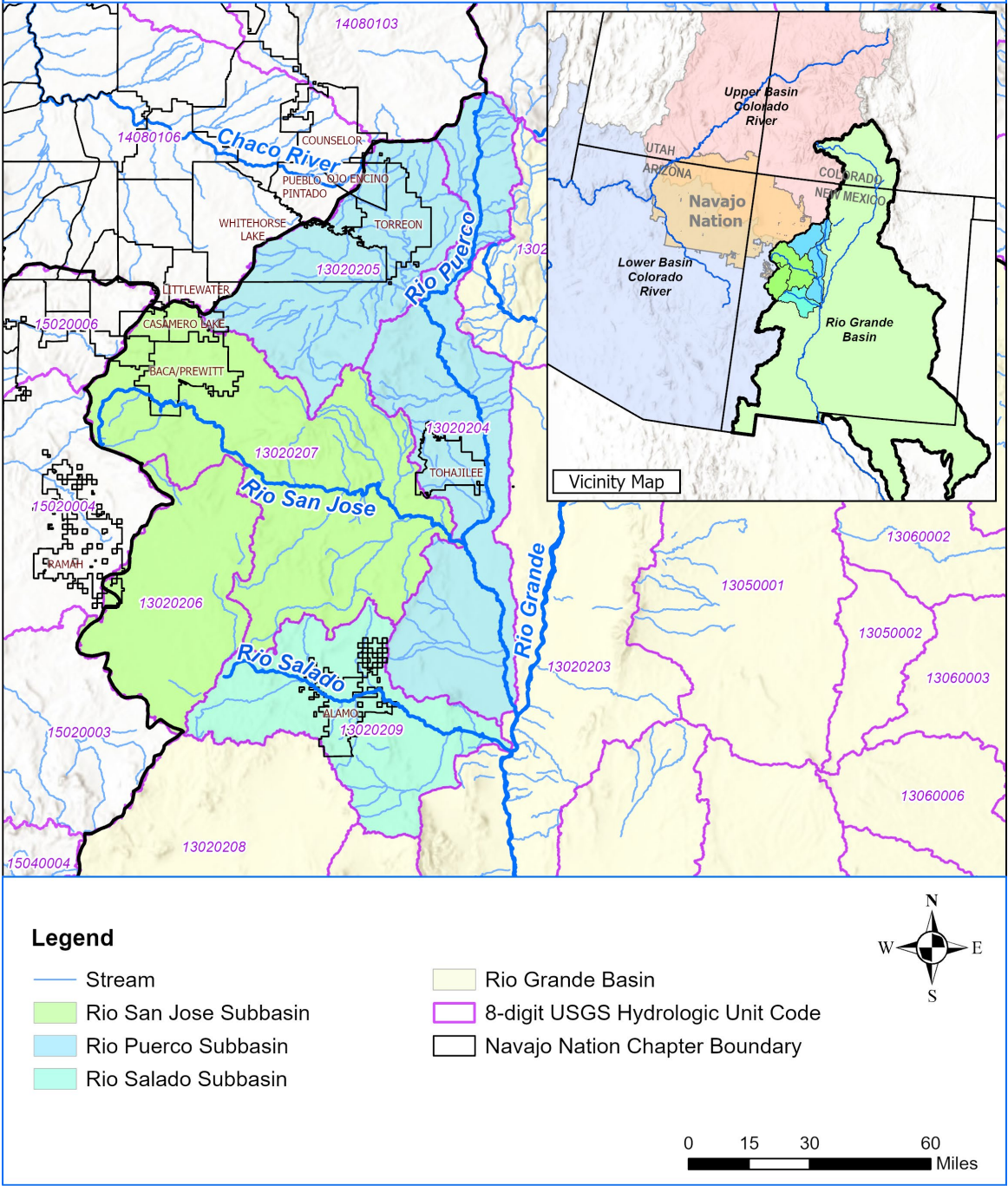


**NAVAJO NATION RIO SAN JOSÉ
STREAM SYSTEM WATER RIGHTS
SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2024 IN NEW
MEXICO**

S.4998, H.R.8945



RIO GRANDE BASIN NEW MEXICO MAP



Casamero Lake



Smith Lake

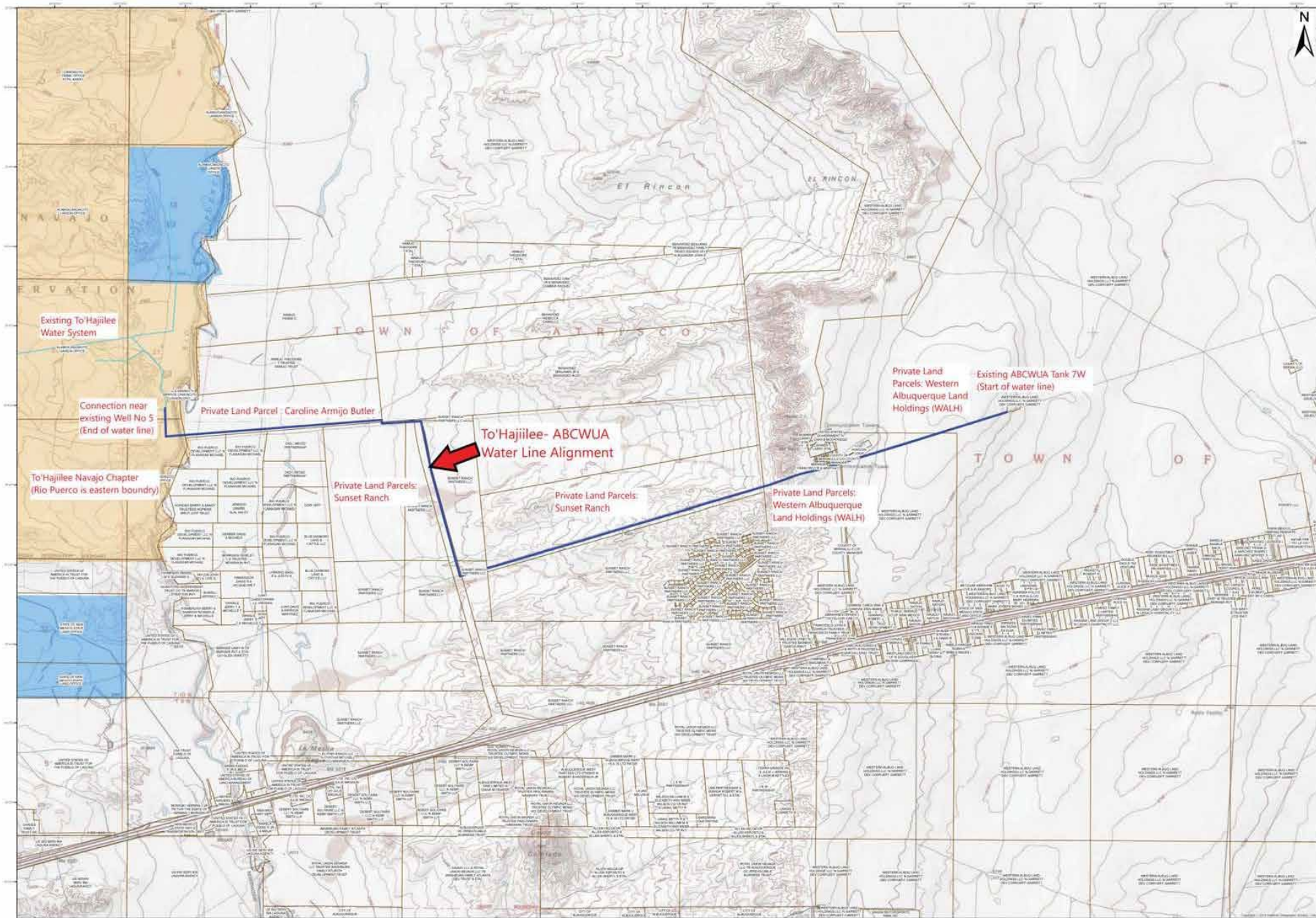


TÓHAJIILEE, NM



TÓHAJIILEE, NM

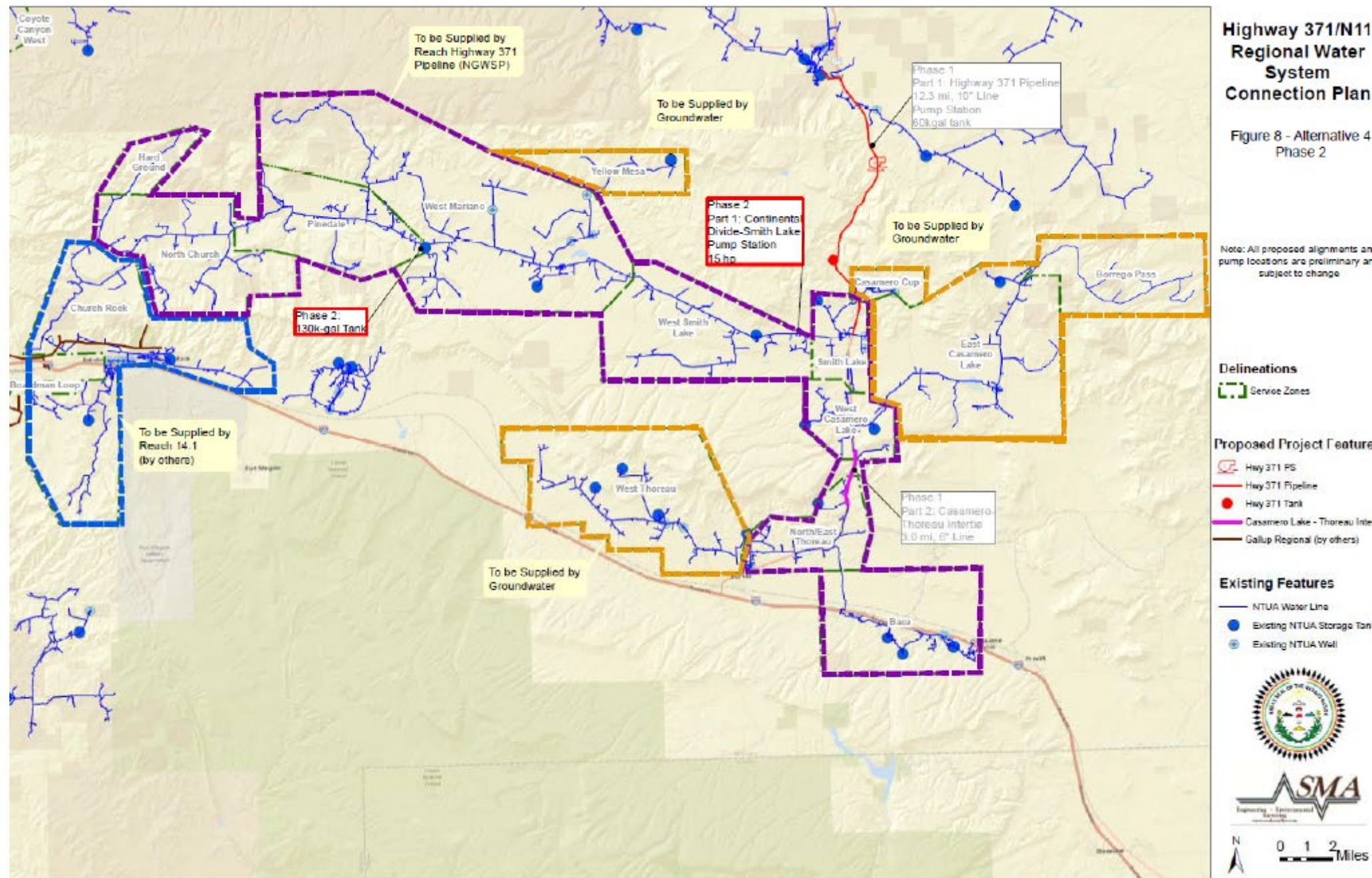




To'hajilee - ABCWUA Water Line Project

0 0.5 1 Miles





SETTLEMENT SUMMARY

- This settlement will establish a \$200.271 million Navajo Nation Rio San José Settlement Trust Fund to be used for water infrastructure development, acquiring water supplies, water rights management and administration, watershed protection and enhancement, support of agriculture, water-related community welfare and economic development, and settlement implementation costs
- Settlement will also establish a \$23 million Navajo Nation Operations & Maintenance Account



SETTLEMENT SUMMARY

- This Settlement will affirm and quantify the following enforceable rights to water in the Rio San José Stream System and the Rio Puerco Basin:
 - 2,444 AFY of groundwater for the two basins
 - 417 AFY for livestock use
 - 493 AFY additional storage right of for stock ponds for Rio San José Basin
 - The settlement agreement does not impact allottee water rights



APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE NAVAJO NATION RIO SAN JOSÉ STREAM SYSTEM WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN NEW MEXICO

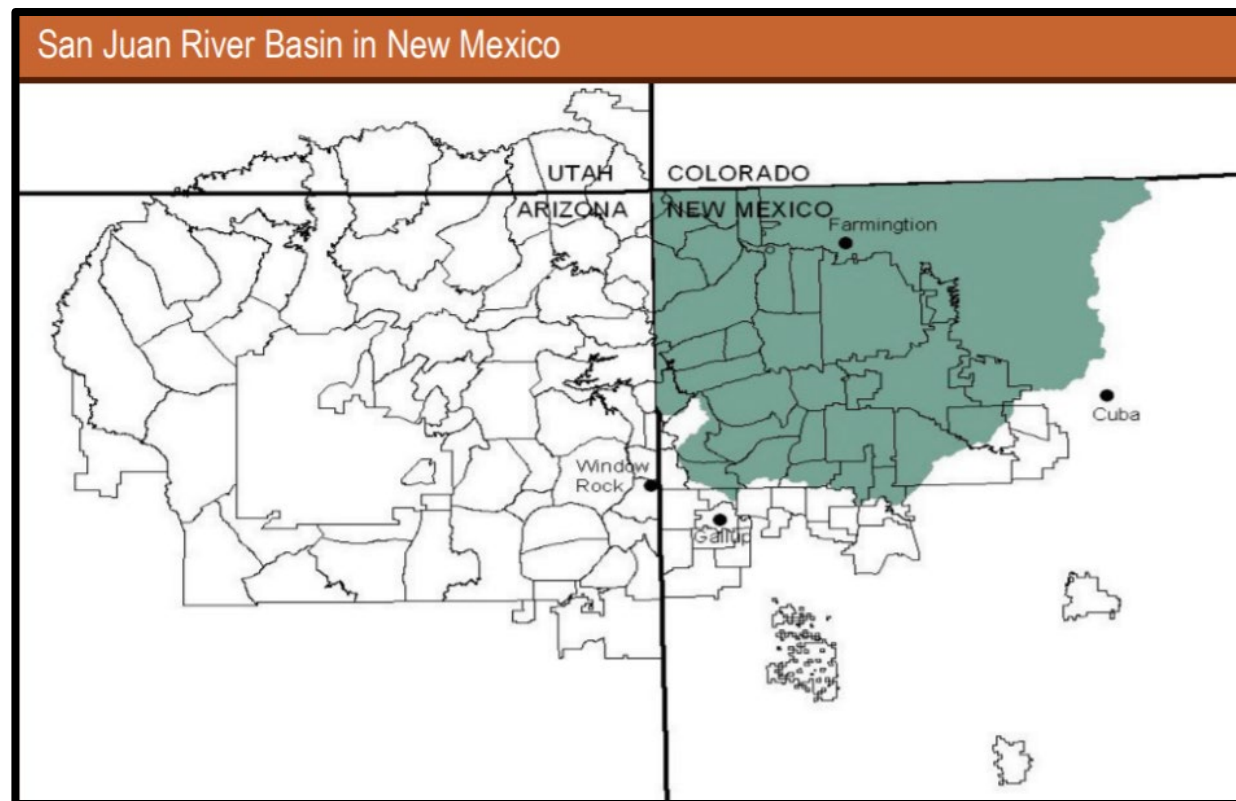




NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2023 IN NEW MEXICO

S. 1898, H.R. 3977

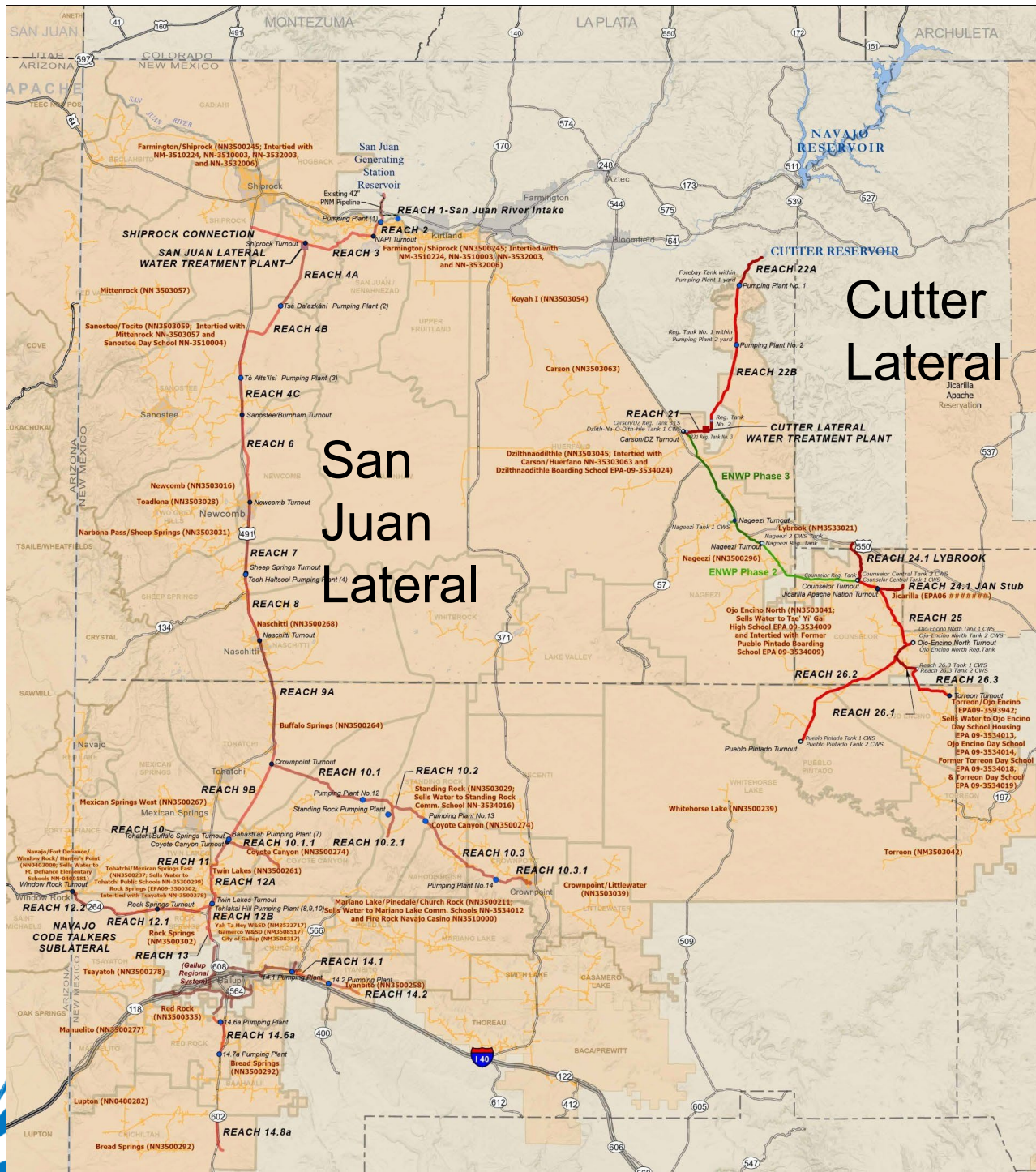




Ten Tribes Tribal Water Study 2018



NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT



- Authorized under P.L. 111-11
- Beneficiaries include the Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the City of Gallup
- The purpose is to construct water transmission pipelines capable of conveying treated San Juan River water
- Total allocations 37,764 AFY

CUTTER LATERAL



Tank No. 2



Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant



Bahastl'ah Pumping
Plant 7

SAN JUAN LATERAL

Black Hat Storage
Tank



Littlewater



AMENDMENTS ACT SUMMARY

- Amendments will fund completion of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. Once fully completed, it will convey a reliable municipal and industrial water supply from the San Juan River in New Mexico to (a) 40 Navajo Nation Chapters located on the eastern side of the Navajo Nation, (b) the City of Gallup, and (c) part of the Jicarilla Apache Nation.
- Amendments include a provision to allow 2,000 AFY to be diverted to Sweetwater through the NGWSP as Utah apportioned water.



APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2023

**Introduction to
Senate & House
(June 2023)**



**Senate Hearing
(July 2023)**



**House Hearing
(July 2024)**



**Approval by Congress
& Presidential Signature
(Estimated December 2024)**



KEY BENEFITS OF NAVAJO WATER SETTLEMENTS

- Substantial funding to construct the infrastructure to complete the Nation's global water supply system.
- A dynamic and adaptive global water supply system that can better withstand the drought challenge.
- Real water delivered to Navajo communities that will make water delivery in peoples' homes possible.
- Water security for our people.
- An opportunity for growth and opportunity in Navajo communities.
- A pathway home for our people.
- Confidence that we will have adequate water to remain in our homeland indefinitely.





CALL TO ACTION

Contact your Senator and Congressperson and ask them to support the Nation's water settlements.

Share your story of what access to safe, clean drinking water at your home or in your community means to you and your loved ones.

Form letters are on the Navajo Nation Water Commission website.

Phone numbers for House and Senate offices are available by calling the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 (voice) or 202-224-3091 (TTY).



JOIN OUR VIDEO CHALLENGE

Enter to Win \$100

- 🎥 Share a video (1-2 minutes) on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok telling us what these settlements mean to you.
- 🌊 Use the hashtag #PassH2OSettlementsNow to enter.
- ✨ 4 winners will receive \$100 and be invited to participate in a professional video that will be shared with Congress!
- 📅 Deadline: Post your video by Saturday, **November 30** to be eligible.

